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REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 5, 2007.

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-19 are pending in the application.

The examiner's reconsideration of the rejection in view of the amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested. It should be noted that the applicants are not conceding in this application that the amended claims in their prior form are not patentable over the art cited by the examiner, as the present claim amendments have been made only to facilitate expeditious prosecution of the application. The applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

By the Office Action, claims 1-8, 10 and 12-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by McMullan, Jr., et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,654,746) (hereinafter 'McMullan').

McMullan discloses a game delivery system in which games are downloaded from a service provider to a home game adapter (see McMullan, Fig. 1; column 7, lines 9-12). A user receives authorization to download games upon purchasing time for temporary play according to a rental mode or an arcade mode (McMullan, column 10, line 58 to column 11, line 12). The service provider manages user authorization by utilizing authorization and control data stored in a Pay-to-Play (PTP) table located in the home game adapter (McMullan, column 11, lines 45-62). The authorization and control data may be read by a game player coupled to the home game adapter (McMullan, Abstract; column 10, lines 46-48). The table is maintained by the service

provider to record new purchases and is referenced to determine whether access is authorized (McMullan, column 11, lines 45-62; column 12, lines 16-20). Upon expiration of the user-purchased time, the system of McMullan institutes a "reset" operation in the home game adapter to halt game play, wherein all registries are cleared (e.g., McMullan, column 7, lines 55-61; McMullan, column 17 lines 2-4). After a reset operation, a user is required to initiate a new download if she wishes play the game again (e.g., McMullan, column 12, lines 23-27).

McMullan fails to disclose that the information to which a user is prevented from accessing is accessible by the service provider. In McMullan, the information to which a user is prevented from accessing is the game data program. While McMullan discloses that a service provider may access and modify a PTP table, which is readable by the game player and separate from the downloaded game data program, McMullan does not disclose that the downloaded game data program is accessible by the service provider after a reset operation. As stated above, every time a reset operation is made, all registries are cleared and the user is required to initiate a new download.

The present principles, however, include a method and system for maintaining system security by preventing an end user from accessing service-provider accessible information stored on an access device. According to one aspect of the present principles, a network service provider may remotely access and modify a configuration file stored in an end-user access device to prevent a user from accessing information that may potentially compromise the service provider's internal security standards (Specification, p. 3, line 28 to p. 4, line 2). In addition, the service provider may access and modify information stored on the access device that a user is prevented from accessing (Specification, p. 5, lines 1-3; p. 5, lines 32-35; 108, Fig. 2). Such access to a configuration file is necessary to adequately provide services to a user, as the

configuration file includes dynamic information that enables the access device to establish a communication link with a network through the service provider (see Specification, p. 3, lines 26-30).

In contrast, there is no reason for a service provider described in McMullan to access a game downloaded to a user device after the purchased time of use expires. Accordingly, the present principles are believed to be patentable over McMullan at least because McMullan fails to disclose or remotely suggest that information to which a user is prevented from accessing is accessible by a service provider.

Claim 1 includes, inter alia: "... a control mechanism disposed at a location of the service provider which accesses and modifies stored information on each access device of the end users to designate service provider-accessible portions of the information to prevent access thereof by the end users. ..."

Similarly, claim 10 includes, inter alia: "... preventing the end user from accessing the designated service provider-accessible information on the end user's access device."


Thus, claims 1 and 10 are believed to be patentable over McMullan at least because McMullan does not disclose or suggest that information to which a user is prevented from accessing is accessible by a service provider. Moreover, claims 2-8 and 12-19 are believed to be patentable due at least to their dependencies from claims 1 and 10.

Claims 9 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over McMullan. Independent claims 1 and 10 are believed to be patentable over McMullan for at least the reasons stated above. Accordingly, claims 9 and 11 are believed to be patentable due at least to their dependencies from claims 1 and 10, respectively.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully request that the rejections of the claims set forth in the Office Action of June 5, 2007 be withdrawn, that pending claims 1-19 be allowed, and that the case proceed to early issuance of Letters Patent in due course.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application, they may be charged to applicant's representatives Deposit Account No. 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

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